

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 17, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday December 17, 2025, at 5:31 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Phil Cochran, Rob Jacobsen, Megan Baskerville, and Steve Horve. Staff present at the meeting were Kent Newton, Executive Director/CFO; Don Miller, Director of Engineering; J.D. Malone, Director of Maintenance; Ashley Bailey, Director of Compliance and Innovation; Hailey Beals, Administrative Office Coordinator and Patrick Sullivan, General Counsel for the District. The audience included David Diehl of Black & Veatch (electronically), and staff member Brian Casch.

Mr. Smallwood called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no comments from the public.

13407Mr. Jacobsen moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2025; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted; and Resolution R2025-06 Authorization to sign loan documents for L177557 be approved; and that the President, Clerk, and Executive Director be authorized and directed to take all actions required to execute the items on the consent agenda. **Trustee Smallwood, Cochran, Jacobsen, Baskerville and Horve voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report included in the packet. He informed the Board that staff met with Mr. Sullivan to discuss the upcoming collective bargaining agreement (CBA) negotiations, and the union has also met to discuss their position. There is optimism that an agreement can be reached more quickly this year than in the past. Mr. Newton presented a Non-Contiguous Service Agreement for the new Casey's location, which was not on the agenda as it was just received. He also located the original study that established the user fee structure. While user rates increase annually, the underlying fee structure has not been reviewed since 1984. There is \$72,000 remaining in the contract with Jacobs, and the plan is to have Jacobs complete a new study which will include nutrient reduction in addition to flow rate, BOD, and total suspended solids as factors in the cost structure. These four factors will form the basis for billing moving forward. Surcharge rates have never been modified and will also be reviewed. Mr. Newton invited Board members to attend the holiday party scheduled for the following day. In response to Mr. Jacobsen's inquiry about recent check fraud, Mr. Newton explained that, despite existing security measures, the cause remains unknown. Local authorities are investigating, and the bank has already reimbursed the funds.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the packet. He provided an update on the Administrative Workforce Complex, reporting from the recent progress meeting that Christy Foltz anticipates all interior work will be completed by January 20, except for the carpet. Mr. Miller highlighted that the district is a contender for the ACEC Illinois Engineering Excellence Award for the Lost Bridge Force Main project, completed in partnership with Clark Deitz. This is a statewide, black-tie event recognizing engineering achievement. The thickened sludge force main relocation has been completed and is fully operational, and Phase 2B is underway. A pre-bid meeting was held for the Digester #1 Lid Replacement project, which is now officially out for bid.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the packet. The maintenance team completed 464 work orders in November, a figure historically consistent with this time of

year due to employee leave and the focus on large projects. Major efforts involved draining the water tower to replace a hydrant and a valve, both of which were completed successfully. The team also focused on clearing trees from the levee and handling significant snow removal, as Decatur received 20 inches of snow this season—more than the previous several years combined. The buildings and grounds crew ensured roads remained clear, and a water leak near Building 203 was addressed promptly. Finley Creek pump #4 failed and will be brought to the Board for approval next month. The janitor position remains vacant, and maintenance staff have temporarily assumed those duties as a plan for the new building is developed. On Tuesday, a water main break at the front gate was quickly handled with help from the City and Burdick, with excavation and repairs completed by 11 p.m. The solar project continues to move forward, with soil compaction and topography work completed and the next project phase scheduled for review in early to mid-January.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. She, Mr. Newton, and Austin Gruber met with HeplerBroom to discuss the AOC, which will be presented to the EPA. The final compliance report for the year has been submitted. The official move-in date with Illini Supply has been set for February 23, and they will continue to store new furniture until that time. Integrated Planning is currently stalled waiting for the City of Decatur. There have been ongoing issues with Tillamook. While the situation is frustrating, Tillamook appears to be making a genuine effort to improve, and their corporate office will be visiting next month to address the issues. Ms. Bailey has a meeting scheduled with Black & Veatch regarding the 30% design review, and David Diehl has submitted a draft construction proposal, prompting discussions about whether to engage a single contractor or multiple contractors. Additionally, Austin Gruber identified new pretreatment software, Clear, which prompted a series of follow-up questions from Mr. Jacobsen.

13408Ms. Baskerville moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur approve Ordinance No. 2025-05A Amending Ordinance No. 2025-05 Authorization to Borrow Funds for the East Side Interceptor Rehab L17-7557 project in the amount of \$4,000,000; and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to sign said ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. Mr. Newton along with Mr. Sullivan commented that this is the exact same motion that was approved last month, albeit with changes in the wording per the EPA's request.

Motion carried unanimously.

13409Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur approve Change Order #3 to the Administrative Workforce Center project with Christy Foltz, reducing the agreement by \$34,336 to a new contract amount of \$14,954,278; and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said Change Order. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen.

Motion carried unanimously.

There was no New Business, Closed Session, or Attorney Report.

Brian Casch expressed his thanks to Mr. Newton and Holly Gulick for taking in the input he received from staff regarding health insurance, and that the new options- (keeping our original plan with slightly higher costs, or choosing a narrower network with better prices) have been very well received.

Dan Smallwood wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season.

13410Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk